Exploring the Construction of Professional Ethics of Teachers in Contemporary Colleges

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Abstract. With the development of higher education in China, the demands for the basic quality and professional ethics of the college teachers are growing. To strengthen the moral cultivation of college teachers is not only an important aspect to improve comprehensive character of teachers, but also a significant factor that influences students’ learning and talents. This paper analyzes some of common moral deficiency in college teachers from the connotation and characteristics of college teachers, and explores how to improve the professional ethics cultivation of contemporary university teachers.

Introduction

The college is an important base for cultivating capable people, and college teachers are more important to bear significant responsibilities of talent cultivation. The university period is the important stage where young students construct the knowledge system and form views on the world, life and values. In order to better sustain great responsibilities of developing qualified talents and reliable successors, to train more high-quality comprehensive talents, it is exactly important to have high-quality college teachers. This article will explore the construction of professional ethics of college teachers under the background of mass education.

1. The Characteristics of College Teachers' Professional Ethics

Teachers in the traditional sense are often regarded as ones who could propagate the doctrine, impart professional knowledge, and resolve doubts, namely the pure knowledge initiator which is also the first role of college teachers. As an important part of the teacher community, on the one hand, college teachers have the basic attributes of "teachers", on the other hand, there are big differences in personal characteristics, occupational characteristics, social status and other aspects from the general sense of the teachers. College teachers whose main aim is to teach profound knowledge have academic and professional dual attributes on professional feature. This profession has the following characteristics. [1-2].

1.1 The Complexity of the Composition

With the gradual expansion of the functions of higher education, integrating teaching, research and social services is a whole. The role of college teachers also presents the characteristics of multiplicity and variability [3]. There are different moral requirements for different roles, leading to contradictions easily. For example, it is unavoidable to have a conflict between teaching and research, social services and the obligations of the school. College teachers are required to properly handle these complex relationships in works.

1.2 Demonstration for the Students

The distinct college students whom college teachers serve for have rich emotion. Physiology and psychology have been driven mature.
University is an important stage where students develop the correct view of values. It is a powerful education factor for college teachers offer a model for students. For college students, it’s a strong example and spiritual call.

1.3 The Profound Effect to Society

This feature of college teachers' professional ethics is mainly determined by the identity and status of college teachers as professional personnel. College teachers usually have a high social rank and professional reputation, shouldering more social expectations. The influence caused by their professional ethics will have a great hint and demonstration to other members of the society. To some degrees, the whole society morality will be led.

2. The Present Situation of Teachers’ Professional Ethics

2.1 The Behavior of Chasing Benefits in Market Leads to the Lack of Ideals and Beliefs

Since the reform and opening up, with the impact of economic system transformation and the value of the diversification, some college teachers’ professional ethics disobeys the country’s long-term education policy. Under the market economy, the profitability, competitiveness, autonomy, etc, brought by the marketization of higher education, also make the concept and behavior of college teachers affected. They meet confusion on how to correctly deal with identity and career ideals and other aspects which mainly reflect on the following fields.

2.1.1 Some Teachers' Ideological and Political Qualities Need to be Improved

Some college teachers only devote themselves to scientific research and teaching; do not attach any attention to the learning of political theory. And the strong and highly personal is usually mixed up with teaching and academic activities. Some even issue irresponsible remarks on the party’s line of principles and policies, ignoring cultivating students’ views of values. Not only do not find the students thinking of confusion in time, but to guide its direction to the wrong way.

2.1.2 Some College Teachers’ Moral Standards, Professionalism Desalination

Under the background of marketization, University ecological environment is affected by the social conduct of doing everything for money. Some teachers expose out the characteristics of instant success, sacrificing principle and sought profits, and being self-seeking, keen on money. The teachers spend most of their energy for the second and third career regardless of professional ethics. Thinking it a kind of human capital investment relationship between teachers and students, do not want to communicate with students, and rarely chat with students after school, lack of professionalism, making a seriously effect on quality of teaching.

2.1.3 Some Teachers Lake of Integrity of Academic Attitude

In recent years, the problem of moral misconduct and immoral behaviors surfaces from time to time in academic activities, not only affecting the reputation of the school, but also making a negative impact on China’s economic construction and social development.

2.2 The Impact of Mass Education on the Professional Ethics of College Teachers

The popularity of higher education has led to a significant increase in the number of highly educated and university teachers, which has also had an impact on the higher education system itself. Fox example, the popularization of higher education makes it possible for more people to accept higher education, to promote the diversification of the school model. But at the same time, it will lead to lower quality of higher education, and the sharp increase in the number of college graduates which will bring employment risks and pressures. Therefore, the impact of marketization and popularization of higher education has two sides. It has positive effects and also implies the great impact and serious challenge to the construction of college teachers' professional ethics.
2.3 The Impact on Professional Ethics Brought by Structural Changes

The college teachers have gone through from quantitative change to qualitative change. Therefore, teachers are required not only to become experts in the field of education, but also become scholars of academic disciplines. For years, the structure of college teachers team have showed younger, highly educated, high title trend. A large number of master's and doctoral graduates enter the university after they just graduated, and soon undertake the teaching and research tasks, become the main force of teaching in colleges and universities. The colleges get an infusion of fresh blood brought by them who have more systematic expertise, quick thinking, open thinking, innovation, but also the development of colleges benefit a lot from them.

But most of the young teachers have not experienced hardships, lack of hard-working quality and a spirit of hard struggle, hooked easily by the bad habits, ignoring the role of position and the sense of responsibility and mission desalination of educating people and a model for students is faded away. So, it is difficult to form a teacher personality. What’s more, the construction of teachers in the moral is also a heavy system constrains, and the young teachers of the induction education and post-vocational education have become formulaic.

2.4 Attaching Importance to Scientific Research, Ignoring the Policy Guidance for Teaching Quality

Teaching and research are the main functions of colleges and universities, and there is a complex relationship between the two, both mutual promotion and contradiction. At present, the domestic colleges and universities tend to pay too much attention to the scientific research. Scientific research results are required for teachers of the promotion, title assessment and so on, resulting in college teachers spend a lot of time and effort on scientific research, ignoring the quality of teaching. In addition to, colleges booming enrollment for many years leads to the decline in teaching conditions, and also brings great pressure to ensure and improve the quality of teaching. The lack of hardware and software conditions has brought great text on the construction of professional ethics of college teachers.

3. Approaches and Methods of University Teachers’ Professional Ethics Construction

3.1 Self-education of Teachers in Colleges and Universities

As the main social culture inheritance and communicators, college teachers not only should have high professional skills and teaching methods, also should have excellent teaching attitudes, professional ethics and noble personal accomplishment. In addition, such a group must abide professional skills, make every effort to practice the spirit of age and infect students with their good moral character [4-5].

3.1.1 Improve the Ideological and Political Quality, Firm the Socialist Ideas and Faith

As the forefront of ideological work, universities and colleges shoulder significant tasks, which specifically are the study and propaganda of Marxism, cultivating and carrying forward the socialist core values as well as providing talent guarantee and intellectual support. All of above are for the sake of achieving the Chinese dream of reviving the Chinese nation. The most important thing is that the value orientation of young students determines the value orientation of the future society. Therefore, sticking to the ideological positions and further enhancing the influence of Marxist on young students are the top priority values of ideological workers and educators.

The current system of higher education has turned from elite into the public system. It places teachers in a more important position when referring to ideology, which requires such a group should have firm socialist beliefs, great ideological styles and attitudes as well as noble moralities. What’s more, drive and help students by exampling from the political height in order to know the significance of improve their morality. All of above are meant to cultivate builders and successors with high qualities for China’s socialist modernization, who conform to social development needs.
3.1.2 Master Profound Professional Knowledge

It's the duty of teachers to teach students rich, useful scientific and cultural knowledge. Hence, they themselves are supposed to spare no effort to master profound professional knowledge and practical skills. Possessing insights and genuine is actually the premise of finishing their own tasks for college teachers. What most students need are such teachers, who can integrate the quality of loving education and students with the richness of knowledge. It’s also the basic moral requirements of teachers’ professional quality in college and universities.

4. Social Cultivation of Teachers in Colleges and Universities

4.1 Strengthen the Cultivation of Teachers

Strengthen teachers’ ideological and political work of organizational leadership, as well as build mechanism should work. Carry out job security, as well as grasp teachers’ ideological and political work. In the innovation practice, it’s important to comprehensively enhance the level of scientific teachers’ ideological and political work. At the same time, supervise regularly to form a scientific long-term mechanism. According to the structure change of teachers in the new period of the new situation, colleges and universities should explore new ways, methods and approaches aimed at ideal faith education. In addition, bold reform and innovation are also necessary from all aspects including education idea, education content, education carrier, etc. Meanwhile, combine with the characteristics of colleges and universities to consolidate education results. In this way, it will surely build up a correct concept of ideological and political for teachers in colleges and universities. Finally, determined to develop talent cultivation of which ideas and political are firmly, as well as pursuit scientific education concept that combines professional skills with social needs perfectly.

4.2 Safeguard of Teachers Teaching and Money into Life

In the new period, the new changes of social morality have taken place along with the development of the market economy. As members of the society, it’s hard for them to avoid the situation that affected by social environment. It’s regarded by many teachers in colleges and universities that their professional income is out of step with what they have payed. Low economic status, even the living expenses cannot get effective guarantee. Such condition will surely lead to bewilderment and confusion on their own professional value and significance. In this case, it’s a lack of realistic basis to ask them to insist for a long time to pursue contribution and dedication. This is also one of the roots of the phenomenon that moral landslide occurs frequently when referring to teachers in colleges and universities. Teachers can’t form an excellent professional ethics without social support. Only from the perspective of teachers’ fundamental interests, will make teachers devoted to educational work, enjoying the work and loving students. Then the real selfless dedication will come true. But how? Specifically, solve the problem of similar works with different pay and the title being greater than contribution, spare no effort to cash legitimate economic benefits for teachers and solve the worries of their lives.

4.3 Set an Ethics Model Scientifically

From the perspective of school, it’s necessary to excavate and set up a group of virtue and good teachers. Meanwhile, give praise to the excellent teachers’ moral quality which is advocated, and correct wrong moral points of view. In the teaching practice, it’s also of significance to actively encourage teachers’ professional ethics practice, love students and set a good example. Furthermore, it’s essential to encourage teachers serve the society and country with heart and soul, as well as take responsibility for the school and students, which are all aimed at helping teachers set up correct professional ethics.

From the perspective of the society, it’s also a kind of way to promote teachers’ image using the media propaganda and advocate a good social fashion of respecting teachers. Besides, make moral constraints to teachers for a certain degree through social opinion. Grasp contemporary education is to
grasp the future of our country. Use a variety of media to publicize excellent behaviors of teachers, such as being a volunteer teacher, cherishing posts and devoting wholeheartedly to work, which is designed to create a good social atmosphere.

4.4 Strengthen the Comprehensive Improvement and Increase the Intensity of Dereliction of Duty Teachers' Strike

The lack of universities teachers' ethics is associated with combat fatigue. On the one hand, it will intensify its own misconduct behavior that indulging misconduct. On the other hand, it's unfair for people who abide by social morality. Hence, such action is supposed to be taken, specifically speaking, keep strengthening comprehensive improvement, rectify social order, reinforce the comprehensive control of university teachers' violation against professional ethics, establish effective rewards and punishment system, increase the cost of misconduct and improve the benefits of abiding by morality. In this case, can such measures truly achieve the goal of shocking misconduct behavior, creating a good campus fashion and building a harmonious campus?

References